UNITED NATIONS **ST**

Secretariat

ST/IC/1998/58
18 August 1998

INFORMATION CIRCULAR*

To: Members of the staff

From: The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management

Subject: UNITED NATIONS STAFF RELIEF COMMITTEE FOR VICTIMS OF THE TSUNAMI IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

1. The precise number of people killed in the tsunami which devastated northern Papua New Guinea may never be known. As of 28 July 1998, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reports that at least 1,600 bodies had been accounted for and buried, but the death toll could rise as high as 3,000. Many of the victims were children. Relief workers report severe health risks, with decomposing cadavers poisoning fish and freshwater sources.

2. With the approval of the Secretary-General and the full support of the Staff Council, the United Nations staff at Headquarters have formed the United Nations Staff Relief Committee to appeal for funds to alleviate the suffering of the victims of the tsunami. Mr. Jonah Meki (Office of Internal Oversight Services) is Chairman of the Committee, with Mr. Lelei LeLaulu (Office of Human Resources Management) as Vice-Chairman, Ms. Maria Almeida (Department of Public Information) as Secretary, Mr. Jonathan Childerley (Management Policy Office) as Treasurer and Mr. Clarence Clarke (Staff Committee) as a member.

3. Starting on Monday, 31 August 1998, contributions in cash will be collected by authorized staff members on behalf of the Committee. All proceeds will be donated through an appropriate relief agency.

4. Contributions may also be made by cheque payable to the United Nations Staff Relief Committee for Victims of the Papua New Guinea Tsunami, addressed to the Treasurer, Mr. Jonathan Childerley, room S-2733-D. If you can volunteer to help, please contact members of the Committee. Thank you.

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* Expiration date of the present information circular: 31 December 1998.

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